



April 9, 2019

Dear Families:

As your partner in education, the safety and health of your child is our highest priority. That is why I am writing to you today. Please carefully read this letter, so you will have factually accurate information about a health situation we are addressing.

We have identified a person in our school who has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB). Tuberculosis is contagious, but it is not a highly contagious disease and **this is *not* an emergency situation.**

In cooperation with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, we will be conducting a screening of the school's students who we believe may have been exposed. At this time, only high school students have been identified as experiencing potential exposure. **If your child has been identified for screening, you will receive a separate notification today.**

FAMILY MEETING PLANNED

To help our families and students understand the health concerns associated with this case of TB, we will be holding a family meeting Wednesday, April 10th, at 4:30 PM at our school campus. Staff from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health will be present to answer questions and address concerns.

In the meantime, **the Maricopa County Department of Public Health has recommended NO changes to the normal routines or schedule of our campus or students.**

FACTS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria and spread through the air. The bacteria is put into the air when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs. People who spend considerable time in close proximity to the ill individual may breathe in this bacteria and become infected.

NEXT STEPS

It is the recommendation of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health that a TB test be given to the students and staff members who spent considerable time in close proximity (such as in the same classroom) to the ill person.

All TB screening will be offered free to anyone who has been identified as having possibly been exposed to the infected individual. A TB test is done by drawing blood from an individual and then testing that blood for disease. Although the odds of contracting TB in our school setting are low, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health will provide advice, additional testing, and treatment for any individual who tests positive for TB infection as a result of this screening.

Consent for testing from a student's parent or guardian will be required before any student who is under the age of 18 can be tested. Families of students identified for additional screening will receive a consent form, along with an additional letter. Public health nurses will conduct testing at our school, and the results will be forwarded to the individual, or to the parent or guardian of any minor student.

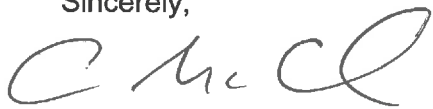
More information on tuberculosis infection and disease can be found on the internet at www.cdc.gov/tb/faqs/default.htm. In addition, a FAQ sheet is included with this communication to address any initial questions you may have.

We are committed to working with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to protect and promote the health of our students and staff. To achieve this, it is important that when we identify a possible case of a communicable disease, we make sure that others who may have been exposed to the disease are tested and receive treatment if needed.

Families, we want you to remain informed every step of the way as we address this health concern, but we do not want to cause undue distress for you or your child.

If you have questions as it relates to how this situation impacts our learning environment, please feel free to reach out directly to me. If you need additional information or assistance as it relates to your child's health, please contact Dr. Khurana with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health at 602-826-3737 or email TB@maricopa.gov.

Sincerely,



Chris McComb
Principal

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